

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached replacement sheets which includes Figs. 3 and 4 replace the original sheets. These figures have been amended to clarify the description on page 6 of Applicants' specification. No new matter has been added.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets (2)

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully traverse and request reconsideration.

The drawings are objected to as allegedly not fully supporting the specification. FIGs. 3 and 4 have been amended to clarify the description on page 6. FIG. 4 of the drawings has also been objected to as showing a bit access 302 located ahead of a clock cycle 303. The line has been redrawn. However, it will be noted that information may be available for storage prior to a given reference clock cycle and as such, the previous FIG. is still correct. As to line 402 in FIG. 4 as not allegedly representing the highest bit occurrence, in this example and as noted throughout the specification the highest bit occurrence constraint on the corridor is represented properly.

A new title has been requested. Applicants have amended the new title as indicated above.

Claims 23, 25, 31, 36-42, 52, 54 and 57 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, 1st paragraph. Although Applicants do not agree, Applicants have deleted these claims without prejudice in order to expedite prosecution.

Claim 6 has been amended to include inherent language and as such, Applicants respectfully request that the 112 rejection be withdrawn with respect to claim 6.

Claim 61 is the combination of claim 1 and 10 which was indicated as being allowable. Applicants have added claims 62 and 63 which are combinations of allowable claims as indicated in the final action. Accordingly, these claims are also in condition for allowance.

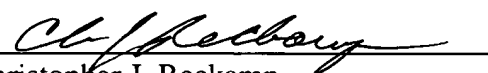
Claims 1-9, 11-16, 19, 32-39 and 41-48 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kato in view of VanDeusen. Applicants have amended claims 1 and 33 to include limitations of claims 16 and 34 respectively.

With respect to amended claims 1, 33 and 43, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance as the combination of references do not teach the claimed subject matter. For example, regarding claims 16 and 34 (now included in claims 1 and 33), the office action rejected these claims admitting that Kato did not teach combining packets by each of incoming stream earliest and latest time constraints but took official notice that combining packets in order determined by first earliest time constraint and first latest time constraint for each packet from two different streams is well known in the art. Applicants respectfully request factual support for this official notice if the rejection is maintained. Also, if it is well known, the office admits that Kato was not aware of such operation. Since none of the cited references appear to teach or suggest this claimed subject matter, Applicants respectfully submit that these claims are also in condition for allowance.

Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. The Examiner is invited to contact the below listed attorney if the Examiner believes that a telephone conference will advance the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 10/31/05

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